THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) Under the National Old Age Pension Scheme, monthly pension at variable rates is being provided to the destitute older persons by the State Governments/ Union Territories.

Further, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment are providing grant-in aid to Non-Governmental Organisations for running of old age homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicare Units for welfare of older persons. The Ministry is implementing a general grant-in-aid scheme under which central assistance has been released for rehabilitations of widows.

Ministry of Women and Child Development are also having a scheme 'Swadhar' for providing shelter based holistic and integrated services to women in difficult circumstances including widows.

Funds for welfare of disabled

2269. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for effective monitoring of the utilization of allocated funds in disability sector; and

(b) whether Government are considering of simplify the processes for assessment of disability and for issuing certificate therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Several measures are in place for effective monitoring of the utilization of allocated funds in disability sector, which include inspection and review of the functioning of the grantee, obtaining their periodic progress report, audited statement of accounts, utilization certificate etc.

(b) A Committee has been constituted to simplify the procedure for issue of disability certificates.

Fellowships for OBC students

2270. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes to provide fellowships to OBC students for primary, secondary, higher secondary and college studies, under various Ministries/ Departments;

(b) the total number and the percentage of applicants (girls and boys) granted fellowships during the last three years in the country, particularly in Rajasthan;

(c) whether Government have any proposal to increase the number of fellowships to OBCs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details about the nodal agency for implementation of the schemes to grant fellowships to OBCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (e) There is no such scheme being implemented by the Government of India to provide fellowships to OBC students.

However, the Ministry has been implementing the schemes of Pre-Matric/Post Matric Scholarships for OBC students. Funds released under the scheme during last three years alongwith number of persons benefited is given as under:

Year	Funds released (Rs. in crore)	No. of persons benefited	Funds released (Rs. in crore)	No.of persons benefited
	Post-matric		Pre-matric	
2004-05	24.67	2,27,980	18.76	12,87,610
2005-06	26.41	1,50,476	19.71	13,28,872
2006-07	53.30	4,11,868	25.27	9,57,338

State of Rajasthan:

Year	Funds released (Rs. in crore)	No.of persons benefited	Funds released (Rs. in crore)	No.of persons benefited
	Post-matric		Pre-matric	
2004-05	–	–	–	–
2005-06	2.35	959	–	–
2006-07	3.52	23,546	3.10	140000

Commission for Economically Backward Classes

2271. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Goyernment have constituted a Commission for Economically Backward Classes, to identify the economically backward classes in the country;

(b) if so, the terms of reference given to the Commission;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Commission was to submit its report by October, 2006;

(d) if so, whether the Commission has submitted its report; and

(e) the details of the recommendations made by the Commission and the action that has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.